

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05

AGR-05 DODE-00 L-03 PM-04 IGA-02 HEW-04 SS-15 SP-02

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R 151040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1949

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 RANGOON 2481

BANGKOK PASS DEA

DEA HQS PASS JENSON/AO, CASEY/EN, SMITH/IG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJ: DEA VISIT - MEETING WITH GUB OFFICIALS

REFS: A) BANGKOK 18174, B) DEA 16114, C) STATE 153693,
D) DEA 16007, E) RANGOON 1909

1. SUMMARY: DEA/BANGKOK AND MISSION OFFICERS MET WITH
GUB NARCOTICS OFFICIALS. BURMESE SIDE CONFIRMED STRONG,
ACTIVE INTEREST IN EXPLORING POSSIBILITY OF HERBICIDE
PROGRAM AND DETAILED NEW LOCUS OF RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN
GUB FOR RELATIONS WITH USG ON NARCOTICS. U.S. SIDE
DISCUSSED POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE OPERATIONS AGAINST
REFINERIES, OFFERED ASSISTANCE ON GUB PRODUCTION OF
NARCOTICS FILMS AND ON TRAINING, PROVIDED RESULTS OF
DEA LAB TESTS OF NARCOTICS SAMPLES, ASKED FOR FURTHER
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DETAILS ON EARLIER GUB REQUEST FOR LAB TEST EQUIPMENT,

AND PROMISED TO PROVIDE GUB WITH FULLEST POSSIBLE DETAILS
RELEVANT TO POTENTIAL HERBICIDE PROGRAM ACTION REQUESTED:
PLEASE SEND ASAP INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS ON HERBICIDE AS
DETAILED BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. DEA ASSISTANT REGIONAL DIRECTOR CUNNINGHAM AND REGIONAL
INTELLIGENCE UNIT CHIEF SWAIN, TOGETHER WITH ACTING DCM/
NARCOTICS COORDINATOR, ON JULY 14 MET WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL
OF PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE U SHWE THAN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
CUSTOMS (FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE)
COLONEL AUNG HTAY, AND NEW DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE SERVICES
INTELLIGENCE COLONEL MYO AUNG. AS IN PREVIOUS SIMILAR
MEETINGS, ATMOSPHERE WAS BUSINESSLIKE AND FRIENDLY, AND
BURMESE WERE WELL PREPARED.

3. FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE RAISED BY BURMESE SIDE:

A. HERBICIDE PROGRAM -- BURMESE DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT
OF HERBICIDE (NOR DID U.S. SIDE) UNTIL COMPLETION OF ALL
OTHER BUSINESS, AT WHICH TIME THEY BROUGHT INTO MEETING
ROOM THREE SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND ASKED US FOR HERBICIDE INFORMATION WE HAD INDICATED
WE WOULD PROVIDE (PER REF A). WE NOTED OUR INABILITY
TO UNDERTAKE TECHNICAL DISCUSSION, GAVE BRIEF SUMMARY
OF MATERIAL IN REF B, EXPRESSED REGRET THAT WE DID NOT
HAVE AS MUCH MATERIAL TO GIVE THSM AS QI HAD EXPECTED
TO HAVE, PROMISED TO PROVIDE FURTHER MATERIAL AS SOON
AS POSSIBLE, AND OFFERED TO ARRANGE TECHNICAL-LEVEL
DISCUSSIONS IF BURMESE SO DESIRED. BURMESE EMPHASIZED
THAT FOR TIME BEING THEY ONLY WANT INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL,
INCLUDING BOTH TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF HERBICIDE USE AND
RESULTS OF HERBICIDE PROGRAMS ELSEWHERE. AFTER STUDYING
SUCH MATERIAL, THEY WILL THEN DECIDE ON WHAT FURTHER
STEPS MAY BE APPROPRIATE. (IN INFORMAL CHAT FOLLOWING
MEETING, AIDE TO COLONEL AUNG HTAY INDICATED THAT SMALL-
SCALE HERBICIDE FIELD TEST, UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS,
WILL PROBABLY BE NEXT STEP.)

B. NEW NARCOTICS CHANNEL -- U SHWE THAN NOTED THAT
US-GUB COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL (HELICOPTERS,
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ETC.) HAD BEGUN BEFORE GUB FORMAL MECHANISMS FOR ANTI-
NARCOTICS PROGRAMS WERE ESTABLISHED. FOR THAT REASON,
UNTIL NOW LOCUS OF RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN GUB FOR DEALING
WITH USG ON ALL NARCOTICS MATTERS HAS BEEN THE DIRECTOR
OF DEFENSE SERVICES INTELLIGENCE (DDSI). LAST FEBRUARY,
HOWEVER, GUB FORMED CENTRAL NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD,
(CNCB), CHAIRED BY HOME MINISTER. THREE CNCB SUB-COMMITTEES
HAVE ALSO BEEN FORMED (ON SUPPRESSION, CROP SUBSTITUTION,

AND REHABILITATION). U SHWE THAN IS SECRETARY OF SUPPRESSION SUB-COMMITTEE, AND WILL NOW ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR LIAISON WITH USG ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. IN THE FUTURE, THEREFORE, GUB REQUESTS THAT WE SEND ALL NARCOTICS-RELATED COMMUNICATIONS TO HOME MINISTRY THROUGH MOFA. (AN IMPORTANT EXCEPTION IS NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE, WHICH WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO PASS DIRECTLY TO DDSI.)

WE AGREED TO THIS NEW ARRANGEMENT. COMMENT: DDSI HAS BEEN OVERBURDENED, AND WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT NEW LIAISON CHANNEL WILL PROVE EFFECTIVE FROM BOTH US AND GUB POINT OF VIEW.

C. CHARLIE WAIN CASE -- DEA/BANGKOK HAS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED DETAILS OF AN APPROACH TO THEM BY CHARLIE WAIN, A BURMESE EXPATRIATE RESIDENT IN THAILAND. HE HAD RATHER FANCIFUL NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION SCHEME INVOLVING DEALINGS WITH VARIOUS REBEL GROUPS. COLONEL AUNG HTAY SAID HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER CHARLIE WAIN HAD WRITTEN TO GUB MENTIONING CONTACTS WITH AMERICANS IN BANGKOK. AUNG HTAY SAID WAIN HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN BURMA FOR INSURGENT ACTIVITIES BEFORE HE FLED TO THAILAND AND IS STILL ACTIVE IN SUPPORT OF INSURGENTS. HE SAID U.S. CONTACTS WITH WAIN OR OTHERS OF HIS ILK COULD ONLY RAISE GUB "SUSPICIONS," AND ASKED THAT WE REFRAIN FROM SUCH DEALINGS.

WE POINTED OUT THAT WAIN HAD INITIATED CONTACT, AND AFTER SINGLE MEETING TO LISTEN TO HIS STORY AND FIND OUT WHO HE WAS, WE HAD NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH HIM AND PLANNED NONE. MORE GENERALLY, WE ASSURED BURMESE THAT IT IS NOT U.S. POLICY TO DEAL WITH ANTI-GUB REBELS ON NARCOTICS OR ANYTHING ELSE.

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COMMENT: WHILE BURMESE SEEMED TO ACCEPT OUR ASSURANCES, THIS INCIDENT HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR USG OFFICIALS TO KEEP CONTACTS WITH ANTI-GUB REBEL ELEMENTS TO A MINIMUM AND TO KEEP EMBASSY RANGOON INFORMED WHENEVER SUCH CONTACTS OCCUR.

4. FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE RAISED BY U.S. SIDE:

A. FUTURE OPERATIONS -- DEA REPRESENTATIVES NOTED THAT THEY ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC, TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE THAT WILL PERMIT FUTURE OPERATIONS AGAINST MAJOR BORDER - AREA REFINERIES, SIMILAR TO SUCCESSFUL OPERATION AT LAO LO CHAI. WHILE DEA HAS TWO TARGETS IN MIND, IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE MORE TIME TO DEVELOP THEM

SUFFICIENTLY TO WARRANT OPERATIONS. WE ASKED IF THE BURMESE HAD ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVING THE INTELLIGENCE DEA HAS BEEN PROVIDING OR IF THEY HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PRIORITY TARGETS IN MIND ON WHICH WE COULD BE OF ASSISTANCE.

BURMESE RESPONDED THAT THEY ARE ALWAYS PREPARED, DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES AND OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES, TO MOVE VIGOROUSLY AGAINST ANY REFINERIES OR OTHER MAJOR NARCOTICS TARGETS. IF WE CAN GIVE THEM DETAILED, RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE, THEY WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACT ON IT.

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05

AGR-05 DODE-00 L-03 PM-04 IGA-02 HEW-04 SS-15 SP-02

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R 151040Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1950

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEA HQS WASHDC

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL MANDALAY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 RANGOON 2481

BANGKOK PASS DEA

DEA HQS PASS JENSON /AO, CASEY/EN, SMITH/IG

B. HELP ON FILMS -- IN VIEW OF EARLIER INFORMATION THAT GUB IS ALREADY WORKING ON PRODUCTION OF ANTI-NARCOTICS FILM AND OF EA INTER-AGENCY WORKING GROUP AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR RAW FILM AND PROCESSING (REF C), WE TOLD THE BURMESE THAT WE ARE PREPARED, IF THEY NEED OUR

HELP, TO OFFER THEM RAW FILM AND COLOR PROCESSING FOR NARCOTICS MOVIE. WE ALSO UNDERTOOK TO PROVIDE THEM WITH NARCOTICS MOVIES AVAILABLE TO DEA/BANGKOK, INCLUDING ONE WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY THE THAI, AS SOURCE OF IDEAS AND TECHNIQUES FOR THEIR MOVIEMAKERS.

BURMESE SAID THEY WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO RECEIVE DEA FILMS, BUT DID NOT RESPOND TO OFFER OF RAW FILM AND PROCESSING. (GUB MAY WELL ACCEPT OFFER LATER, BUT THOSE BURMESE PRESENT AT MEETING ARE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH

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APPROPRIATE GUB AGENCIES.

C. TRAINING--WE REITERATED USG WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY ANY GUB REQUEST FOR NARCOTICS-RELATED TRAINING. BURMESE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION BUT MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE.

D. LAB TEST RESULTS -- WE EXPRESSED RENEWED APPRECIATION OF GUB HELP IN PROVIDING OPIATE SAMPLES FOR SIGNATURE PROGRAM, AND GAVE THEM PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF LABORATORY ANALYSIS OF THOSE SAMPLES (REF D).

E. LAB TEST EQUIPMENT -- FURTHER TO HOME MINISTER U KO KO'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR (REF E), WE ASKED THE BURMESE IF THEY COULD BE MORE SPECIFIC ABOUT WHAT KIND OF NARCOTICS LABORATORY TEST EQUIPMENT THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE.

BURMESE REPLIED THAT THERE WERE TWO TYPES: (1) SIMPLE KITS FOR PRESUMPTIVE FIELD TESTS, AND (2) MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT FOR MORE COMPLETE ANALYSIS AND FORENSIC TESTS NECESSARY FOR COURT CASES.

WE AGREED TO PROVIDE SAMPLE OF "MARKEE" TYPE FIELD TEST AMPULES FOR OPIATES FROM STOCKS ON HAND AT DEA/BANGKOK. IF BURMESE DECIDE THESE ARE USEFUL AND WOULD LIKE MORE, WE WILL TRY TO OBTAIN THEM. AS FOR MORE SOPHISTICATED LABORATORY EQUIPMENT, WE ASKED BURMESE TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR CHEMISTS GIVE US A TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THEY HAVE IN MIND. THEY AGREED TO DO THIS.

5. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO GENERAL UTILITY OF CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH GUB ON NARCOTICS, AND FORWARD MOVEMENT ON SUCH MATTERS AS FILMS AND TEST EQUIPMENT, WE BELIEVE

THIS MEETING HAD TWO MAJOR RESULTS:

A. IT CONFIRMED IN A FORMAL WAY EARLIER INDICATIONS
WE HAD RECEIVED THAT GUB IS VERY INTERESTED IN EXPLORING
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POSSIBILITY OF A HERBICIDE PROGRAM. FOR TIME BEING, AT
LEAST, BELIEVE WE DO NOT NEED TO WORRY ABOUT GETTING
TOO FAR AHEAD OF THEM ON THIS; THEY MAY WELL BE AHEAD
OF US. INDEED, WE PROBABLY LOST USEFUL OPPORTUNITY AT
MEETING TO FACILITATE THEIR PROGRESS ALONG THESE LINES
BY NOT HAVING AVAILABLE THE KIND OF INFORMATIONAL
MATERIAL ON THE MEXICAN PROGRAM WE HAD HOPED FOR AND
REQUESTED. SINCE A HERBICIDE PROGRAM SEEMS TO BE BY
FAR THE QUICKEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING
OUR NARCOTICS OBJECTIVES IN BURMA, WE BELIEVE THIS
MATTER SHOULD BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY AND EVERY EFFORT
SHOULD BE MADE TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO BURMESE REQUESTS.

B. THE MEETING ALSO WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD ESTABLISH-
ING THE PRINCIPLE OF REGULAR, ROUTINE DEA VISITS. MISSION
WAS CAREFUL IN CONTACTS WITH BURMESE ABOUT VISIT TO IN-
FORM REPEAT INFORM THEM THAT CUNNINGHAM AND SWAIN WERE
COMING ON SPECIFIED DATES, NOT TO REQUEST GUB PERMISSION
FOR THEM TO COME, AND TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT GUB OFFICIALS
CONCERNED COULD MEET WITH THEM. THE BURMESE SEEMED TO
ACCEPT THIS PROCEDURE. ALSO, WE FIND IT ENCOURAGING
THAT THE BURMESE TOOK TIME FOR THE MEETING DURING A
PERIOD OF RATHER INTENSE DOMESTIC TURMOIL (NOT PUBLIC,
BUT BEHIND THE SCENES), IN WHICH THE DEMANDS ON THE TIME
OF POLICE AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS, IN PARTICULAR, MUST
BE GREAT.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT S/NM, TOGETHER WITH DEA HQS,
PUT TOGETHER AN EXTENSIVE INFORMATIONAL PACKAGE ON HERBI-
CIDES AND FORWARD ASAP TO MISSION FOR PRESENTATION TO
GUB. THIS PACKAGE SHOULD INCLUDE, INTER ALIA, (1) FULL
DETAILS ON PROCEDURES AND RESULTS OF MEXICAN PROGRAM
AND ANY SIMILAR PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE PERTINENT;
(2) COMPLETE TECHNICAL DATA ON 2-4D AND ITS APPLICATION,
PARTICULARLY DATA WHICH MIGHT ASSIST BURMESE WITH THEIR
CONTEMPLATED CONTROLLED TEST PROJECT; AND (3) AN
ILLUSTRATIVE REPEAT ILLUSTRATIVE DESCRIPTION, BASED ON
EXISTING KNOWLEDGE, OF A TENTATIVE HERBICIDE PROGRAM
FOR BURMA. EMBASSY PLANS TO SEND A FURTHER MESSAGE
ABOUT THIS "ILLUSTRATIVE HERBICIDE PROGRAM" CONCEPT.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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